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Letter dated 7 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw to your attention the statement on Nepal issued on 2 June 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Dieter **Kastrup**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Nepal issued on 2 June 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the decision to abolish the death penalty taken earlier this month by the Nepalese authorities.

The European Union considers that the abolition of capital punishment contributes to the gradual growth of human dignity and to the development of human rights.

The European Union regards the decision of the Nepalese authorities as a gesture by Nepal towards the furtherance of human rights. It fits perfectly into the democratic process that has taken place in Nepal in recent years.

Nepal's decision lends support to the worldwide movement for the abolition of the death penalty.

The European Union once again reasserts its firm commitment in favour of universal abolition of the death penalty or, initially, the introduction of moratoria on executions.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.